

THE

FRIDAY BULLETIN

The Weekly Muslim Update



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Hosts Its First National Quran Competition in Kenya



Wajir Governor and Chairperson of the Council of Governors, H.E. Ahmed Abdullahi (third left); the Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kenya, H.E. Khalid Saeed Al-Zahrani (fourth right); Br. Mohammed Mater Mahzari, Saudi Cultural Attaché – Kenya (right); Acting Chief Kadhi Sheikh Hassan Omar Sukyan (second right); Mandera East MP Hussein Weytan (left); Jamia Mosque Committee Chairman Sheikh Mohamed Osman Warfa (third right); and Chairman of the Islamic University of Kenya's Board of Trustees, Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Osman (second left), handing over the cash prize and plaque to the overall winner of the competition, Abdulhadi Shueib, on Wednesday.

Abdulhadi Shueib of Madrassa Al Bushra in Nairobi has emerged the overall winner of the inaugural Holy Quran Memorisation Competition, a Kingdom of Saudi-backed initiative organised by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Da'wah and Guidance through the Religious Attaché at the Embassy of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in Kenya, in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM).

The competition, which concluded on Wednesday in Nairobi, attracted 373 participants from Nairobi, Garissa, Mombasa, Nakuru, Isiolo, Wajir and Mandera counties. Contestants competed across various levels, including memorisation of

5 Juz', 15 Juz', 20 Juz' and the full 30 Juz', all accompanied by recitation and Tajweed. Preliminary rounds held from 20 October 2025 across the participating counties narrowed the field to 28 finalists, who gathered in Nairobi for the three-day final stage from Monday to Wednesday.

Speaking during the closing ceremony, Wajir Governor and Chairperson of the Council of Governors, H.E. Ahmed Abdullahi, thanked the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Da'wah and Guidance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Embassy in Kenya for sponsoring the competition and supporting the advancement

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Senior Principal Kadhi Honoured for Pioneering Role in Strengthening Kafaalah System

The Senior Principal Kadhi, Hon. Abduljabar Ishaaq Hussein, has been recognised for his distinguished contribution to advancing the Kafaalah System, an Islamic model of family-based care for vulnerable children.

Hon. Abduljabar, who also serves as the Deputy Registrar at the Office of the Magistrates' Court, received a certificate of appreciation from

Changing the Way We Care during a ceremony held at the Mövenpick Hotel, Nairobi. The award acknowledges his leadership, jurisprudential insight, and steadfast commitment to aligning Islamic law with modern child protection principles — efforts that have been instrumental in strengthening family-based

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A Publication of the Jamia Mosque Nairobi

In Today's Issue



1 Ikhlas

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2 Gulf African Bank Unveils Kenya's First Hajj Agent Financing Solution

The pioneering product is designed to ease the financial burden on accredited Hajj agents who coordinate travel for thousands of Kenyan pilgrims every year.

3 Discover, Learn, and Play – The Islamic Way!

Boost your Islamic knowledge with our weekly Crossword Puzzle, Knowledge Quiz, and Ayah of the Week. **Don't miss your copy!**

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BBS Hosts Kenya's First Hajj & Umrah Expo amid Rising Concerns over Fraudulent Operators

Business Bay Square Mall in Eastleigh hosted Kenya's inaugural Hajj & Umrah Expo last Saturday, providing a one-stop platform for prospective pilgrims to plan their spiritual journeys safely and efficiently. The event comes at a time when fraudulent Hajj and Umrah operators have increasingly targeted Kenyan pilgrims, leaving many stranded or financially defrauded.

The Expo brought together over 50 accredited and licensed travel agents, allowing pilgrims to compare packages, verify service providers, and select options that suit their budgets and spiritual needs. By showcasing only certified operators, organizers sought to protect pilgrims from scams and ensure their journeys are secure and reliable. Additionally, the event offered a comprehensive platform for all pilgrimage-related services. Attendees received guidance on visas, flights, accommodation, and other travel procedures, while healthcare providers offered vaccinations and medical advice. Vendors of Hajj and

Umrah attire and other supporting businesses were also present, giving pilgrims convenient access to everything they need under one roof. The event also served as a networking opportunity for industry stakeholders. Travel agents and service providers were able to showcase their offerings, form partnerships, and engage directly with thousands of prospective clients. Organizers noted that this interaction helps professionalize the sector and promotes transparency and accountability among service providers. According to the organizers, the Expo is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen Ken-



A vendor demonstrates the proper way to wear the Ihram, the white cloth worn during Hajj and Umrah, to a visitor at the Hajj Expo held last Saturday at BBS Mall.

ya's Hajj and Umrah ecosystem, ensuring that pilgrims can fulfill one of Islam's most important obligations with confidence. By combining safety, convenience, and a broad range of services, the event reinforced trust in the sector while empowering both pilgrims and businesses alike.

Islamic University of Kenya Set for 3rd Graduation Ceremony

The Islamic University of Kenya (IUK) is set to hold its 3rd graduation ceremony tomorrow to celebrate the academic achievements of graduates from various faculties.

According to the institution, the event will take place at the Graduation Square of the main campus in Kisaju, Kajiado County. The ceremony will be presided over by the University Chancellor, Ambassador Dr. Muhammad Aden Mahat, where

graduates in multiple fields will be awarded and conferred with degrees, diplomas and certificates in recognition of their academic achievements. The university noted that during last year's ceremony, a total of 485 graduates received awards in different disciplines, underscoring IUK's continued growth and commitment to academic excellence. IUK offers a wide range of undergraduate, diploma, and certificate programmes, including Bachelor of Business Management,

Bachelor of Education (Arts), Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Shariah, Bachelor of Arts in Arabic Language, and Bachelor of Information Technology, among others. The Islamic University of Kenya operates its main campus in Kisaju along the Nairobi-Namanga Highway, a women's campus in South C, Nairobi, and a Mombasa campus offering diploma and Master's programmes in both Arabic and English languages.

Saudi Arabia Hosts Its First National Quran Competition in Kenya

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ment of the Muslim community. "I want to thank the Saudi Government and Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Kenya for the good work they are doing for the religion and the ummah. Holding such competition is key because the Quran is everything to us as a society because it gives us a moral compass and makes us better citizens," he said.

He further congratulated all participants, noting that qualifying for the event was itself a major milestone. "For you to make a cut to participate in this competition means you are good in memorizing the Quran," he added.

Deputy Ambassador of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kenya, H.E. Khalid Saeed Al-Zahrani, noted that this was the first Quran memorisation competition of its scale to be held in Kenya.

He said the initiative reflects the Kingdom's longstanding commitment to supporting Quran memorizers globally. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia demonstrates significant

and ongoing commitment to support Quran memorizers both locally and internationally through various initiatives of participation," he said.

He added that the strong turnout demonstrated the dedication of both teachers and students across the country. "The high level of participation by the participants reflects the dedication and commitment of both teachers and students to preserve the Holy Quran," he remarked.

Acting Chief Kadhi Sheikh Hassan Omar Sukyan observed that Quranic literacy and understanding are steadily rising in Kenya and encouraged Muslims to apply the teachings of the Quran in their daily lives.

Jamia Mosque Committee Chairman Sheikh Mohamed Osman Warfa praised the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its role in preserving the Quran, noting that a majority of Kenyan mosques rely on Qurans donated by the Kingdom.

"Over the years, over 90% of the mosques in this country—the Quran that is inside

those mosques are from Saudi. That is a sign the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques are committed in preserving the Quran," he said.

Overall winner Abdulhadi Shueib received Ksh 690,000 (SAR 20,000) after scoring 99.43 points for full memorisation and excellence in recitation. In the 20 Juz' category, Hamza Muhamad Madobe of Madrassa Muadh Bin Jabal in Nairobi was awarded Ksh 517,000 (SAR 15,000).

The 15 Juz' category winner, Hamza Hilowle Ali of Madrassa Misbah, Nairobi, received Ksh 345,000 (SAR 10,000), while Yazid Mukhtar Maalim of Madrassa Al Hilal in Mandera won the 5 Juz' category and was awarded Ksh 172,000 (SAR 5,000).

Organisers expressed hope that the competition will grow into an annual national event, strengthening Kenya's Quran memorisation culture and further cementing ties with institutions dedicated to preserving the Holy Quran.

Ikhlas

Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala) says in the Noble Qur'an, "Say, 'It is (only) Allah that I worship, being sincere in my devotion to Him' (Surah Az-Zumar 39:14).

Ikhlas is the foundation of our deen. Ikhlas, often translated as sincerity, refers to doing everything solely for the sake of Allah. Ikhlaṣ is when you don't wish for someone other than Allah to see your actions, and you don't wish for someone other than Him to reward you for them.

"The believer who is sincere to Allah is the happiest, most content, blessed and peaceful of all people. And this is an early paradise before the upcoming Paradise." – Ibn al-Qayyim (rahimahullah)

Be Vigilant About Your Intention

The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said, "Actions are according to intentions" (Bukhari). Before we begin our good deeds, we should rectify our intentions and only intend the pleasure of Allah. The stronger and purer the intention is, the greater the reward will be. A sincere intention can cause a pound donated in charity to become the equivalent of donating a thousand pounds. 'Abdullah b. al-Mubarak (rahimahullah) said, "How many a small act is elevated by an intention, and how many a great act is diminished by an intention."

Similarly, an intention can transform an ordinary permissible action (e.g eating) into an act of worship. Our beloved Prophet (Peace be upon him) said, "Indeed you do not spend anything seeking the pleasure of Allah, except that you will be rewarded for it, including what you place in your wife's mouth" (Bukhari).

It is very easy to start a deed with sincere intentions, but then find half way through the deed that we are not doing it only for the sake of Allah. Sufyan al-Thawri said, "I have never dealt with anything more

difficult than my intention; it keeps changing on me." Sahl al-Tustari (rahimahullah) was asked, "What is the most difficult thing for the nafs to attain?" He replied, "Ikhlaṣ, because it (i.e. the nafs) does not get anything out of it." Thus, we should constantly renew our intentions. We should be conscious of our intentions before we do a good deed, during it, and after it.

"Indeed your actions are few, so make the few that you have sincere." – Maymun b. Mahran (rahimahullah)

What is your secret deed?

For years, the poor of Madinah would find food left on their doorsteps. They only found out who the 'mystery' donor was the day he passed away. It was none other than the great grandson of the Prophet (Peace be upon him), Zayn al-'Abidin 'Ali b. al-Husayn. When they bathed him, they saw marks on his back and shoulders due to him personally carrying the provisions to the home of the poor.

One of the most effective ways of building sincerity is to perform good deeds in secret, and inform nobody about them thereafter, not even in passing. The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said, "Whoever amongst you is able to have hidden good deeds, then let him do so" (Musannaf b. Abi Shaybah).

Ibn al-Jawzi (rahimahullah) wrote, "How few are those who purely dedicate their good deeds to Allah, glory be to Him! Most people like their acts of worship to be known.

Sufyan al-Thawri (rahimahullah) used to say, 'I have never relied on my public good deeds.'" 'Abdullah b. al-Mubarak (rahimahullah) said, "Whoever wishes to see the Face of his Creator (in Paradise), let him do

good deeds and not inform anyone about them."

"Action without sincerity and without confirming to the Sunnah is like a traveller who carries sand in his bag: carrying it burdens him and does not benefit him." – Ibn al-Qayyim (rahimahullah)

Ayyub al-Sakhtiyani (rahimahullah) would stand the entire night in prayer. In the morning, he would raise his voice, making it out as though he had just woken up at that moment.

The wife of Hassan b. Sinan (rahimahullah) said that her husband would come and lie next to her and then try to fool her as the mother tries to fool her child. When he would see that she had fallen asleep, he would slip out of bed. He would then stand and pray. She says, "I said to him: 'O Abu 'Abd-Allah! How much will you torture yourself? Go easy on yourself.' He replied: 'Woe to you! Remain silent, for am I about to sleep, from which I will not awaken for a long time (i.e. sleep in the grave).'"

"The one who is sincere to his Lord is like the one who walks on sand. You don't hear his footsteps, but you see his footprints (i.e. the impact of his deeds)." – 'Abdullah b. Mas'ud (radiy Allahu 'anhu)

Dawud b. Abi Hind (rahimahullah) fasted for an entire year, without his family knowing. He was a cloth merchant, and he would take his lunch with him to the market. On the way, he would give his lunch

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Choosing a mate

By Safiyyah Yufenu

Discussions with a close friend were once dominated by her excitement and continuous expressions that she wanted to get married. She told me she had a brother in mind that captivated her with his charm, intelligence, and handsome looks. She said that he was interested in her as well. She spoke about many things about him, but none of what she knew was of real substance. To help her think through her quest for marriage, I reminded her about the importance of practicing patience when choosing a mate. However in haste, she drove an emotional whirlwind full of infatuation and excitable hormones straight into the marriage.

They were not so lucky. Within eight months the marriage was over. Incompatibilities in their practice of Islam, their cultures, and their life goals were key factors in doom of the marriage.

What was her explanation for the failure of the marriage? She said the brother was not ready for marriage. She also thought that she would not have been able to know that he was not ready even if they had not rushed. She and I disagreed.

Choosing a mate is the most important decision to make, after taking the shahadah (testimony of faith). The Quran says what means: "Marry those among you who are single, or the virtuous ones among yourselves, male or female: if they are in poverty, Allah will give them means out of His grace: for Allah encompasses all, and he knows all things." (Surah An-Nur 24: 32) Allah places special emphasis on the importance of marriage and its role in our lives.

Marriage is half of our deen (religion). The Quran states what means: "And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are signs for those who reflect." (Surah Ar-Rum 30: 21)

Because marriage in Islam is so significant, it is important to devote quality time and consideration in choosing the person in which you will spend the rest of your life. Oftentimes, intended couples spend more time planning the wedding ceremony than pre-marital planning. However, more time should be spent getting to know your potential mate. This article will provide basic guidelines that women should follow when choosing a husband.

Develop a foundation

First and foremost, women should begin preparation for marriage with education, prayer, thikr (remembrance of Allah), designation of a Wali (guardian) if necessary, and study of religious practices. Education is fundamental in learning about the importance of prayer and other Islamic traditions. For example, women should understand that marriage in Islam

starts in the dunya (world) and continues in the Hereafter. Thus we are not only selecting a mate for this life, but also for the next life-Insha Allah. Artificial factors such as social status and beauty should be regarded as less important compared to piety. The Quran says what means: "But to those who receive guidance, He increases the (light of) guidance, and bestows on them their piety and restraint (from evil)." (Surah Muhammad 47: 17) Piety strengthens character and brings us closer to Allah. It is natural for women to want security and for men to desire a beautiful wife. Despite society's emphasis on these and other ideals, Muslims should refrain from placing too much effort and focus on attaining worldly ideals. In other words, ascertaining a potential mate's sincerity in practicing the deen of Islam supercedes other factors such as wealth, beauty or status.

Seek Allah's guidance

Women should always seek Allah's guidance throughout their search for a spouse. And so, anytime one experiences doubt or concern she should make salah Istikharah—a prayer for guidance. This salah can be used at anytime.

Practice proper etiquette

Courtship in Islam has parameters. As you get to know your potential mate, it is best to do so within the permissible guidelines. Generally speaking, a man and a woman are not to be alone if they are not married. One hadeeth says, "A man should not be alone with a woman, for verily Satan makes a third" (Muslim). A man should not be secluded with a woman except with a mahram (guardian)" (Muslim). Also, if an unmarried woman finds a man she is interested in, she must not stare at him or approach him directly. The Quran says what means: "And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and be modest. That is purer for them. Lo! Allah is aware of what they do." (Surah An-Nur 24: 30)

All contact between the woman and her potential mate should be supervised by the woman's wali. A wali is a legal guardian that is a friend or protector that is supposed to look out for her best interest.

When speaking to their potential mate, women should speak in a straightforward manner. Avoid flirtation and any sexually-oriented discussion. Instead, discussion should remain casual and include topics relevant to the pursuit of marriage. Discovering common interests, understanding financial situations, sharing parenting techniques and relating to in-laws are examples of allowed topics for discussion. If and when it becomes evident that the potential marriage couple is not compatible, the discussions should end.

Consider religious compatibility

It is important to find out if you are compatible religiously with regard to day-to-day

practices. One can not always assume that being Muslim is a guarantee that you will be compatible or "equally yoked." Ask yourself—Does his practice of Islam seem freeing or restricting? How does he feel about how you wear your garments? Would you prefer that he wear thobs (traditional garments)? How does he measure piety? How does he spend his time during Ramadan? What are his views about the cultural practices of Islam around the world? Does he adhere to the performance of salah (5 times daily obligatory salah) with punctuality?

Discuss expectations

At advanced stages of your exploration, talk about each other's personal expectations. Ask about his views on birth control. Discuss a timeline in which you would like to have children. Once you have children would be prefer that you stay home? 'Would you rather work? Do you feel about home schooling your children? How does he feel about helping with chores around the house? Discuss what your living arrangements will be.

Ponder the long-term

Does this man have flaws and weaknesses that can be tolerated for a lifetime? Is he worth pleasing for Allah's sake even when he does not live up to expectations? Will he be a good father? Are there any issues that he feels require abandoning a spouse? Seriously consider the number of times he has been married if he has been married before.

Know your needs

Ponder whether or not he is the person that can meet your needs. Do not rationalize and accept characteristics you know do not suit you because you think you can

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Light of Knowledge Quiz

Which step comes first in wudu?

A Intention (Niyyah)

B Washing Hands

C Wash Face

Answer to be revealed in the next issue

Last week's answer was choice A : "Wuqf at Arafat (standing at Arafat)"

The Best of All Relationships – The Handhold That Never Breaks

By B. Khan

Life is so unpredictable. Sometimes it seems the only thing I can expect from this dunya is unpredictability. This life gives joy one day and grief the next. It gives love one day and heartbreak the next. Nothing about this world is the same two days in a row—except one thing... Its Creator.

I recently had a painful experience related to someone I know. It was shocking and it left me feeling broken and betrayed. I'm sure everyone reading this has had a similar experience at some point in their lives. All of this made me think about what I am expecting from my relationships. I think a part of me knows that I am expecting too much. Although there are some people in my life who are kind and sincere, they are still only human. They will never be perfect. There will be times when they hurt me and I hurt them, even if it's unintentional.

The painful feeling is amplified even more when I think about what I put into these relationships. I am the type of person who is openly expressive. I wear my heart on my sleeve. If I care about someone, I'll do anything for them. But experiences like the one I recently had remind me that Allah is the only one who will always reciprocate. He (SWT) tells us that if we go to Him walking, He will come to us running. In my human relationships, I feel like I am often the one running after others while they walk away from me.

Bonding with the Divine

To be honest, this is a big part of what keeps me practicing Islam to the best of my ability. It's not always easy getting out of bed for fajr or going out with my hijab on. My faith and belief in the Afterlife keeps me doing these things, but there is also a significant part of me that just wants to do it all for my Creator. If I can put so much effort into imperfect relationships with my family and friends, why not do the same for the One who is always there for me?

He is Al-Wadud, the Loving One. He is Al-Mujeeb, the One Who Responds. Why should I not do my best to be what He wants me to be?

Of course, this is all just one perspective. This world is full of people who are mad at God for allowing them to go through pain. I see Allah as the reason why I'm not going through worse situations. I know that He is the one who is watching out for me and protecting me. And most importantly, He is there for me to turn to when

people in this world let me down.

Call out to Him

When I feel the sting of betrayal and the pain of heartbreak, I know that all I have to do is call out to Him and He will be listening. I can put my hands up in the air and cry my heart out, knowing He will take these emotional burdens off of me.

I never have to worry that Allah won't understand me or doesn't care about what I'm feeling. And that's the case with every human that He has created. Allah says He is closer to us than our jugular vein. You know the vein in your neck that you can touch and feel your heartbeat? He is closer than that.

I also find myself thinking sometimes that maybe one benefit of going through painful experiences is that I will remember to turn to Allah. Sometimes I get so consumed by what's going on in my life that I start to become distant from Allah. I become too caught up in my work and too invested in relationships that won't fulfill me.

And then it's like Allah gives me a reminder that all of this is a house of cards, ready to collapse at any moment. I'm sure we've all had this realization at some point in life. The sudden awareness that nothing in this world is guaranteed. That Allah is the

constant, the only one who will always be there.

When you lose that job you worked so hard for, Allah is there to help you back onto your feet. When things don't go as planned, Allah makes better plans for you. And when that special someone in your life becomes the source of your pain, Allah is there to heal your heart. He is the only handhold that never breaks. And it was there all along.

And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me – indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided. (Surah Al Baqarah 2:186)

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

LAST WEEK'S

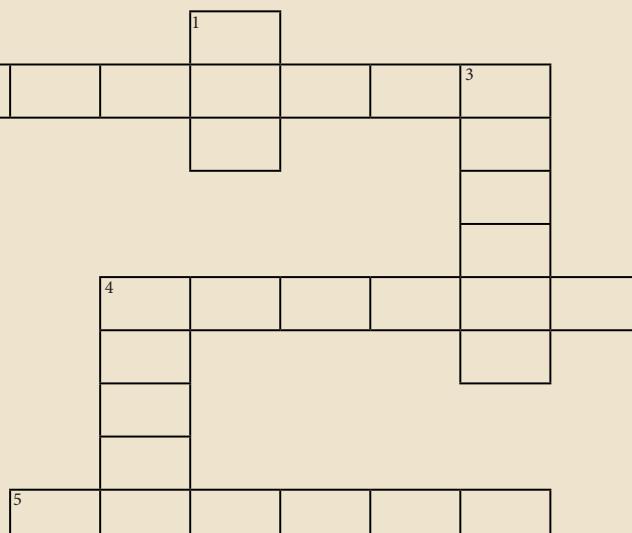
ANSWERS

ACROSS

3. Zabur
4. Umar
5. Infitar

DOWN

1. Jamiah
2. Four
6. Akhlaq



ACROSS

2. The Prophet who could talk with birds and animals
4. Arabic term for office
5. The first and oldest holy site in Islam, the earliest House of worship on Earth.

DOWN

1. How many Pillars of Faith (Arkan al-Iman) are there ?
3. A muslim must have this before all acts of worship and good deeds.
4. Surah that exclusively details dietary laws and punishments and covenants.

Forty Arabic Teachers Trained in Joint Programme at Jamia Mosque Nairobi



Graduates of the Arabic teachers training workshop pose for a photo with their certificates at Jamia Mosque, last week Friday. The five-day workshop was organized by Arabic for All, a Saudi-based institution specializing in developing Arabic curricula and training teachers for non-native speakers, in collaboration with the Muslim Education Council (MEC) and Jamia Mosque Nairobi. The training, led by Dr. Saad Al-Ghamidi and Dr. Imad Shariff, brought together 40 Arabic teachers from across Kenya.

Gulf African Bank Unveils Kenya's First Hajj Agent Financing Solution

Gulf African Bank has launched Kenya's first-ever dedicated Hajj Agent Financing solution, marking a major milestone in the country's faith-based financial services sector. The pioneering product is designed to ease the financial burden on accredited Hajj agents who coordinate travel for thousands of Kenyan pilgrims every year.

Unveiled last week in Nairobi, the innovative solution aims to transform the way Hajj operations are financed by providing critical support to agents responsible for complex logistics such as visas, flights, accommodation, and compliance with Saudi and Kenyan regulations.

The financing package covers up to 80 percent of an agent's expected operational costs and offers flexible, Shariah-compli-

ant repayment terms tailored to the seasonal and cyclical nature of Hajj. According to the Bank's Head of Business, Saada Mohammed, the product features a 10-month bullet repayment plan that allows agents to settle the facility in one payment at maturity, a structure crafted to align with Hajj timelines and provide both liquidity and planning certainty.

"With an estimated 4,500–5,000 Kenyans travelling for Hajj annually, this financing gives agents the operational flexibility and foresight they need to plan ahead," she said. "It ensures that no pilgrim is barred from undertaking this sacred journey due to delayed payments or financial constraints. By covering key costs upfront, agents are able to manage visas, flights, accommodation, and

compliance obligations efficiently, while also enabling long-term strategic planning that strengthens their businesses and the overall Hajj experience," she emphasized.

The Hajj Agent Financing solution is expected to empower agents to focus on delivering seamless travel experiences while enhancing their financial sustainability and operational stability. Beyond supporting agents, the product stands to benefit thousands of Kenyan pilgrims by enabling timely planning and efficient execution of travel arrangements.

Ultimately, the financing solution ensures that more Kenyans can fulfil one of Islam's most important obligations with confidence, dignity, and peace of mind.

Senior Principal Kadhi Honoured

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care in Kenya. In its citation, the organisation praised Hon. Abduljabar for his "valuable contributions in the development and promotion of the Kafaalah care system," particularly his work in ensuring that Islamic guidance on child care is harmonised with national legal frameworks. The Kafaalah System is an Islamic alternative care arrangement designed for children deprived of parental care and protection. Under the model, an individual or family (Kafil) voluntarily commits to caring for a child in need, prioritising placement within a nurturing family and community environment rather than institutional settings. Kenya has officially recognised Kafaalah as a legal alternative care option, incorporating it into the Children's Act of 2022.

The model has also been embedded in the National Care Reform Strategy, which aims to transition the country away from institutional child care by 2032. Hon. Abduljabar has been at the centre of these reforms, serving as the lead drafter of the Children (Kafaalah) Regulations and Rules, key instruments that guide the implementation of the system nationwide. His recognition marks a significant milestone in Kenya's efforts to enhance child protection through culturally and religiously grounded approaches that place family and community at the heart of care.



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CIPK, Government Launch Five-Day Workshop to Strengthen Adult Education

The Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK), in partnership with the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizens Affairs, has launched a five-day induction workshop aimed at equipping 30 tutors to support and strengthen adult education programmes across Nairobi.

The initiative, implemented through the Directorate of Adult Learning and Education (DALE), was inaugurated on Tuesday at Islamia College in Parkroad. It builds on longstanding national efforts to advance adult learning, with a renewed focus on underserved communities, particularly those with large Muslim populations. Under the programme, mosques, madrassas, and community halls will be used as accessible learning spaces to help overcome cultural barriers that have traditionally discouraged participation.

Workshop instructors noted that the training will cover the four core pillars of adult education: Basic Literacy, Post-Literacy, Accelerated Learning, and Community Education, which includes vocational and life-skills training.

The urgency behind the programme is underscored by the ongoing transition to the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), with the KCSE examination set to be phased out by 2027.

The government aims to ensure that adults seeking to complete their secondary education take advantage of the remaining

examination cycles. Officials recalled that when the KCPE was discontinued in 2023, many potential candidates were left unable to sit for their final exams—an outcome they are determined not to repeat.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, DALE Deputy National Director Janet Cherotich urged communities to end the stigma directed toward school dropouts and adults returning to the classroom. She emphasized the need for families and community members to offer encouragement instead of criticism. "It is never too late to go back and finish school. Pursuing education at any age is something to be proud of, not hidden," she said.

DALE Nairobi Regional Director Salome Terah highlighted that deploying tutors to mosques, madrassas, and community facilities will broaden access and ensure no learner is left behind. She reminded trainees that adult education requires patience, flexibility, and methodologies tailored to older learners.

"When we began scouting for potential tutors for this programme, we reached out to more than 150 mosques and madrassas across Nairobi and received overwhelming interest. Being shortlisted means you are among the most qualified. This induction will equip you with the tools needed to effectively support adult learners, especially those preparing for KCSE through accelerated learning pathways," she said.

CIPK Nairobi Chapter Secretary Sheikh Ibrahim Mohammed reaffirmed the organization's commitment to addressing illiteracy within Muslim communities, particularly among older adults who never had access to formal schooling.

He said the programme not only enhances literacy but also restores hope for individuals seeking to complete their secondary education.

"These opportunities uplift families, strengthen communities and rebuild confidence among adults who once believed their chance had passed," he stated.

The week-long induction has brought together tutors drawn from teachers, community leaders, and religious instructors, including imams and madrassa teachers. The training prepares them to deliver adult education in community-friendly, inclusive environments, enabling learners to progress through both basic and accelerated learning tracks.

Upon completing the workshop, the newly trained tutors will be deployed across Nairobi's neighborhoods to facilitate classes and support learners ahead of the remaining KCSE exam cycles.

The initiative marks a significant step toward expanding educational opportunities, promoting social inclusion, and reinforcing collaboration between faith-based institutions and government agencies.

Nubian Community Renews Push for Formal Ethnic Recognition

The Nubian community has renewed its call for formal ethnic recognition, saying the move would affirm its identity and resolve decades of historical ambiguity.

The community is urging the government to officially gazette it as an ethnic group, citing long-standing marginalisation and historical injustice.

For years, the Nubian community has petitioned the government to recognise and gazette it as Kenya's 45th tribe.

Speaking on behalf of the Nubian Council of Elders during a community engagement forum held on Sunday and attended by Professor Makau Mutua, Senior Advisor on Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights in the Executive Office of the President, Dr.

Musa Muhammad said the community has endured more than a century of discrimination despite its deep historical roots in the country.

He noted that the historical injustices continue to deny Nubians equal access to citizenship rights, land security and political representation.

"For generations, we have been treated as if we are not part of this nation. Formal recognition is not a favor, it is a right and a correction of a historical wrong," Dr. Musa said. Dr. Musa further pointed out that the Public Service Commission's list does not include Nubians, arguing that the lack of recognition has contributed to persistent challenges, including vulnerability to forced evictions,

inability to legally develop or inherit land and exclusion from land compensation programmes.

Addressing the forum at Kibera Primary School, Professor Makau Mutua assured the community of the government's commitment to officially recognise Nubians as Kenyan citizens.

He revealed that he has already raised the community's concerns with President William Ruto and expressed confidence that the matter would be addressed.

President Ruto announced in April 2025 that the Nubians would be officially gazetted as a tribe in Kenya by December 2025.

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change them later. Ask yourself, "Is he responsible and does he know how to prioritize? Does he respect me for who I am or does it seem like he wants to change me? Does he want me to grow in mentally and spiritually as I continue in the path of Islam?"

Be patient

Marriage is serious. Do not rush into it. Operating in haste usually leads to dis-

Choosing a mate

aster. Time is needed to get to know the person. Allah teaches that those with patience will enter paradise. The Qur'an says, "Those who show patience, firmness and self-control; who are true (in word and deed); who worship devoutly; who spend (in the way of Allah; and who pray for forgiveness in the early hours of the morning." (Surah Al 'Imran 3:17)

Think for yourself

Try not to assume that the way he dresses or the way he speaks are indications of his personality or how he will treat you. The "pious" look does not always mean the person is pious. A man who references Qur'an in every conversation he has with you is not necessarily pious either. Try to erase any traits that may be artificial and forms of deception to win your hand in marriage.

Quran Distribution Drive Reaches Western and Nyanza Mosques

Copies of the Noble Quran have been distributed in various mosques and Islamic institutions across Western and Nyanza regions as part of an initiative to replace worn-out copies and replenish mosques and madaaris with the sacred scripture.

The copies of the Noble Quran, which were donated to Kenyan Muslims by the Turkey-based humanitarian organisation Hayrat Nesriyat Aid, were distributed to over 20 mosques and madrassas.

The donation is described as "a significant contribution to promoting Islamic educa-

tion and moral values." The distribution exercise was undertaken and spearheaded by the National Muslim Leaders Forum (NAMLEF).

Through the programme, mosques and madrassas in the two regions received Qurans aimed at strengthening Islamic education and enhancing religious knowledge.

A total of 450 copies of the Noble Quran were distributed to mosques in the Western and Nyanza counties of Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Vihiga, and Siaya.

The initiative, which is expected to contrib-

ute to the spiritual development of Muslim communities, received 650 applications and requests from mosques and madrasas. According to the programme coordinator, Parves Swale, "the program received 450 copies of the Noble Quran that were not enough to cater for the needs of the high numbers of Mosques and Madaaris in the two regions."

For further requests, individuals can call or text 0788 292 933. Collection point: NAMLEF Office, Lumino Road, Mumias Town.

Muslim Students at SEKU Appeal for Land to Construct University Mosque

Muslim students at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) are calling on the institution's administration to allocate land for the construction of a mosque to meet the spiritual needs of the growing Muslim population on campus.

The students noted that establishing a mosque within the university would provide a dignified and conducive environment for performing their daily prayers and fulfilling other religious obligations. They emphasized that a dedicated place of worship

is essential for strengthening their spiritual well-being and fostering unity among the Muslim community at SEKU.

"We are hopeful that the university administration will consider our appeal and take the necessary steps to support the construction of a mosque," the students said, expressing optimism that the institution will respond positively to their proposal.

Only a few universities in Kenya currently have established mosques for their Muslim student community. Kenyatta University,

Maseno University, and Mount Kenya University (MKU) are among the institutions with designated mosques. Last year, MKU inaugurated a newly constructed mosque, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

SEKU has an estimated 10,000 Muslim students enrolled across various academic disciplines, underscoring the need for a dedicated worship facility to cater to their religious needs.

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to the poor, and when he would return in the evening, he would eat with his family. His fellow merchants would think he ate at home, and his family would think that he ate in the market. Allahu Akbar! Imagine fasting for an entire year without your own family knowing!

We should try to do as many 'secret deeds' as possible. It may be additional night prayers, or charity, or helping someone. No doubt we will see the effects of such deeds in our lives, and we can only imagine the reward in the hereafter.

Imam al-Shafi'i (rahimahullah) said, "(Imam) Malik (rahimahullah) said to me: 'Muhammad, fear Allah! When you are alone with Allah and you perform a good deed, then beware that anyone finds out about it. For Allah ('azza wa jall) only accepts that which is sincerely for His pleasure, as He said: Everything is going to perish except His Face (28:88) i.e. that which is done seeking His pleasure. Adhere to the station of knowledge, as it is attached to the station of Prophethood. This is what Rabi'ah b. 'Abd al-Rahman related to me.' Then Malik wept, and caused me to weep. I then realised that Allah did not elevate the status of Malik, except through a secret which was between him and Allah."

The Sincerity of Imam al-Mawardi (rahimahullah). It has been said that Imam al-Mawardi (rahimahullah) did not disclose any of his writings during his life, and instead stored them in one place. When death approached him, he said to a person he trusted:

Ikhlas

"All the books in such and such a place are my writings. I did not disclose them as I did not find my intention to be sincere. When you see that I am about to die, place your hand in my hand. If I hold on to it and squeeze it, then know that none of it has been accepted from me, in which case take the books and throw them in the River Tigris. However, if I

stretch my hand out, then know that they have been accepted from me."

The man said: "When he was in his final moments, I placed my hand in his hand, and he stretched his hand out. So I disclosed his books." (Siyar A'lam al-Nubala')

Courtesy: Life With Allah



Al-Furqan Training Institute

SPECIAL INTAKE 2026 (ISLAMIC & CBC Studies)

Welcome to Al-Furqan Training Institute, a boarding Institute for boys, located in Maili Tisa Town, on the Nairobi -Namanga Highway in Kajiado County. Established since 1999.

We have exciting news and are inviting applicants to join us in Our Special January 2026 Intake to Join us to Study Islamic Studies (Thaniyah) and CBC from Grade 7 for the next 6 years.

1. Application Submission.

► Parents/guardians must complete the application form that is available at our offices in Nairobi and Maili Tisa Office, call us on 0722492850 or the Principal - 0725757506

► Shortlisted candidates will participate in interviews and tests to evaluate their academic readiness, Islamic knowledge, and character on 14th December 2025

2. Minimum Requirements: -

► Completion of Grade 6 under the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

► KIPSEA assessment report.

► Know how to read the Qur'an & must have attended madrassa.

3. Co-Curricular and Leadership Attributes

► Active participation in co-curricular activities with an Islamic focus (e.g. Islamic debates, youth empowerment programs).

4. Other Conditions: -

► Learner MUST be ready and willing to take HUMANITIES and STEM pathway in senior secondary school. (SSS) at Alfurqan training institute.

► Learner MUST stay at senior secondary school (SSS) up to Grade 12 after completing JSS (grade 9)

Please contact us for the application form before 14th December 2025 on email:

info@maahad.org.or

Office Tel: 0722492850 / 0733994009 or Principal's Tel: 0725757506